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from Stillwater to St. Louis. By 1864 the rafts were towed for the first time by a steamboat.

In eastern Wisconsin methods were different. Sawmills were built on the lake and bay shore, and timber was shipped by sailing and steam craft to the great lake ports. Oshkosh was built up by the Wolf River output and became in the sixties the "Sawdust City." Its output was chiefly shipped by railroad.

Among the "lumber kings" who have been prominent in Wisconsin political history are Isaac Stephenson, Nelson Ludington, Daniel Wells, Philetus Sawyer of eastern Wisconsin; Cadwallader C. Washburn, Thaddeus Pound, J. G. Thorpe, J. H. Knapp, A. L. Stout, and Alexander Stewart of western Wisconsin. Frederick Weyerhaeuser began exploiting Chippewa pine lands in the Civil War decade. In 1871 he organized the Mississippi River Logging Company, the greatest lumber syndicate of its time.

IDENTIFYING AN EARLY POSTSCRIPT

Can you identify a company which had a post office around 1856-57, the postmark of which reads: "G. D. D. & Min. P. Co.?" It may possibly have been in the vicinity of Pepin or North Pepin.

WM. F. GOERNER
Edgewood, Rhode Island

The postmark for which you inquire was that of the Galena, Dubuque, Dunleith, and Minnesota Packet Company, which plied its steamboats on the upper Mississippi during the decade of the fifties. It was commonly spoken of as the Minnesota Packet Company. You will find an account of its history in George B. Merrick, *Old Times on the Upper Mississippi* (Arthur H. Clark Co., Cleveland, 1909). The letter was posted on the steamboat and stamped with the Packet Company's mark, as is often done with railway postal car letters.

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS IN WISCONSIN

We are assembling information regarding the history, origin, and development of Agricultural Fairs in the United States and Europe. Could you send to me references to this general subject?

E. K. THOMAS
Secretary, Rhode Island Horticultural Society, Kingston, R. I.

The first State Agricultural Fair in Wisconsin was held at Janesville in 1851; since that it has met annually except for the

years 1861, 1862, and 1863, when the grounds at Madison were in use as a camp for regiments going or returning to the front. In 1864 the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society determined to hold a fair at Janesville. It was continued there the two succeeding years. In 1867 the fair returned to the capital, at Madison, whence in 1870 it was removed to Milwaukee, where it has been held each autumn to the present time. We have a complete set of the *Transactions* of the Society giving accounts of the yearly fairs. We note also that the Society sent its secretary as a delegate to the International Exhibition at London, 1862, and to the Paris Universal Exposition, 1867. For both these expositions the delegate made an extended report, printed in the *Transactions*. County fairs have been established in nearly every county of the state. We have a considerable mass of material on these local fairs and will be glad to look up for you any especial point of research that does not involve too much expenditure of time.

WISCONSIN HISTORIES FOR A NEWSPAPER OFFICE

Would you mind suggesting to me a list of county and state histories, and records of Dane County and Madison which I should have for a newspaper reference library? Do you know of a history of Wisconsin that is worth while? If new things are coming out in the future I shall be interested in them also.

A. M. BRAYTON
Madison

There is no very good or satisfactory history of Wisconsin to my knowledge. Dr. Thwaites' little volume in the American Commonwealth Series is good as far as it goes. However, the volume is small at best, and two-thirds of its contents deal with Wisconsin prior to 1848, so that one gets almost nothing on the real history of the state which has taken place since that time. Similar to Dr. Thwaites' account is Miss Kellogg's "Story of Wisconsin, 1634-1848," which we have been running serially for something over a year in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. The last installment of it will appear in the June number, so that the story is well toward completion now. Another fairly handy reference book for Wisconsin is Mr. Legler's volume, *Leading Events of Wisconsin History. The Story of the State*. Milwaukee, 1898.